National Highways Authority of India has awarded four laning of Zirakpur-Parwanoo section of NH-22 with package cost as Rs. 295 crore on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis, about 6 km of which passes through Himachal Pradesh. No expenditure has been incurred thereon.

Nearly 11 km length of Pathankot (Punjab)-Bhogpur (Punjab) package of four laning on National Highway-1A passes through Himachal Pradesh. It is difficult to separate out expenditure on this package State-wise.

In addition to above, Border Roads Organisation is also incurring expenditure on maintenance of National Highway-22 from Wangtoo to Pooh from G. S. Funds as a continuing process.

Shortage of Indian officers for country's flag carriers

1147. SHRI T. T. V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any shortage of Indian officers for the country's flag carriers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to recruit foreign officers;

(d) if so, whether the proposal has met with stiff opposition from Trade Unions; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (e) In view of the acute shortage of Indian officers, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions in consultation with the shipping industry.

Delay in NH Projects

1148. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that differences on key policy issues between Ministries from bidding norms to concession agreements and the delay in